Part - II

Q.1 :-

Introduction :-
Sociology offers different theoretical frameworks to analyze and understand society and its functions. Among them, the Functionalist, Conflict and Symbolic Interactionist perspectives are the most prominent. These theories explain social phenomena from distinct viewpoints, providing a comprehensive analysis of societal dynamics.

1. Functionalist Perspective :-
The functionalist perspective, developed by Emile Durkheim and later expanded by Talcott Parsons, views society as a complex system of interdependent parts working together to promote stability and social order. Every aspect of society — its institutions, norms and roles — serves a specific function that contributes to the overall equilibrium.

Core Concepts :-
Manifest Functions: Intended and recognized consequences (e.g., education providing knowledge).

Dysfunctions: Elements that disrupt social stability (e.g., unemployment leading to inequality).

Real-life Example :-
In education, schools serve as institutions to transmit

Knowledge (manifest function). They also instill discipline and societal norms. However, educational inequality can create dysfunction by prepetuating social class disparities.

2. Conflict Perspective :-

Rooted in the ideas of Karl Marx, the conflict perspective emphasizes power struggles and inequality as the driving forces in society. It argues that society is divided into dominant and subordinate groups, with the former exploiting resources to maintain control. Social change, therefore, arises from conflicts between these groups.

Core Concepts :-

- Society is characterized by inequality and competition.
- The ruling class (bourgeoisie) exploits the working class (proletariat).
- Social change occurs through revolution or reform.

Real-life Example :-

The disparity in wealth and resources between the wealthy elite and the working class reflects this perspective. For instance, in industrial labour settings, workers often protest for fair wages and rights, challenging the capitalist structure that prioritizes profit over equality.

3. Symbolic Interactionist Perspective :-

Symbolic interactionism, influenced by thinkers like George Herbert Mead and Herbert Blumer, focuses on micro-level social interactions and the meanings individuals attach to symbols, actions and relationships. This perspective sees society

as constructed through everyday communication and shared meanings.

Core Concepts:-

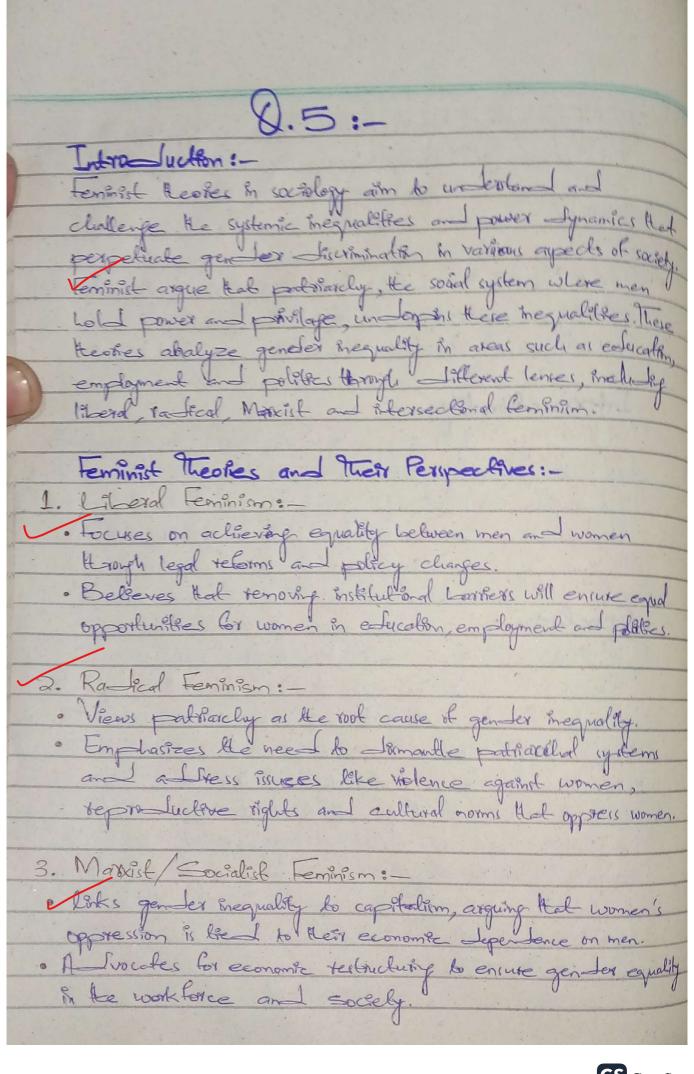- Symbols: Objects, gestures and words that hold specific meanings (e.g., a handshake symbolizes agreement).
- Social reality is subjective and constructed through interaction.
- Focus on small-scale interactions rather than large structures.

Real-life Example:-

The use of symbols like wedding rings signifies commitment in marriage. Social interactions within families or workplaces shape individuals indentities and roles, such as a teacher being perceived as an authority figure based on their interactions with students.

Comparison and Contrast:-

Aspect	Functionalist Perspective	Conflict Perspective	Symbolic Interactionist Perspective.
Focus :	Stability, order and interdependence.	Power, inequality and competition.	Everyday interactions and subjective meanings.
Level of Analysis:	Macro	Macro	Micro
View of Society:	Harmonious and stable.	Divided and unequal.	Dynamic and constructed through interaction.
Key Thinkers:	Emile Durkheim, Talcott Parsons	Karl Marx, C. Wright Mills	George Herbert Mead and Herbert Blumer.
Social Change:	Gradual and evolutionary	Rapid and revolutionary.	Emerge from interactions.

Conclusion :—

The functionalist perspective highlights social stability, the conflict perspective emphasizes inequality and change, and symbolic interactionism focuses on individual and small-group interactions. Together, these perspectives provide a comprehensive understanding of society, from large-scale structures to the nuances of human behaviour.

Q.2 :—

Introduction :—

Karl Marx and Max Weber, two of sociology's founding figures, made significant contributions to the understanding of social stratification. Both theorists analyzed how societies are divided, but they approached the issue from different perspectives. Marx emphasized the role of economic factors and class struggle, while Weber provided a broader analysis that included class, status and power.

Karl Marx's Perspective on Social Stratification :—

Karl Marx's analysis of social stratification is rooted in the ~~theory~~ of historical materialism, which posits that the economic base of society determines its structure and superstructure. For Marx, class is the primary determinant of stratification and it arises from one's relationship to the means of production.

1. Key Concepts :—

a. Class Division: Marx identified two main classes in capitalist ~~societies~~ societies.

Bourgeoisie: Owners of the means of production (capitalists)
Proletariat: Workers who sell their labor.

b. Exploitation: the bourgeoisie exploits the proletariat by appropriating surplus value, leading to inequality.

c. Class Struggle: Marx believed that societal change occurs through conflict between these classes, culminating in a proletarian revolution and the establishment of a classless society.

2. Focus on Power:-

For Marx, power is derived from economic dominance. The bourgeoisie controls political and ideological institutions, ensuring their continued dominance.

Max Weber's Perspective on Social Stratification:-

Max Weber expanded the understanding of social stratification by incorporating a multi-dimensional approach. While he acknowledged the importance of economic factors, he argued that class alone does not fully explain stratification. He introduced two additional dimensions: status and power.

1. Key Concepts:-

a. Class: Weber agreed that class is based on economic relationships, such as property ownership and income, but he emphasized market position rather than direct exploitation.

b. Status: Status refers to the social honor or prestige accorded to individuals or groups. Status groups are often distinct and can be based on lifestyle, education or cultural values.

c. Power: Power is the ability to achieve one's goals despite resistance. It is often institutionalized in political or bureaucratic structures.

2. **Intersectionality :-**
Weber argued that class, status and power are interrelated but distinct, allowing for more complex stratification patterns. For example, a wealthy individual may lack status, or a person with high status may wield significant power despite limited economic resources.

Conclusion :-
Karl Marx's theory of social stratification centers on economic class and the exploitation inherent in capitalist systems, while Max Weber provides a more nuanced analysis, considering class, status and power as distinct yet interconnected dimensions. Both theories remain highly influential, offering different lenses to analyze inequality and social structure. Together, they highlight the complexity of stratification and its impact on society.

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Q.5 :-

Introduction :-

Feminist theories in sociology aim to understand and challenge the systemic inequalities and power dynamics that perpetuate gender discrimination in various aspects of society. Feminist argue that patriarchy, the social system where men hold power and privilege, underpin these inequalities. These theories analyze gender inequality in areas such as education, employment and politics through different lenses, including liberal, radical, Marxist and intersectional feminism.

Feminist Theories and Their Perspectives :-

1. Liberal Feminism :-

- Focuses on achieving equality between men and women through legal reforms and policy changes.
- Believes that removing institutional barriers will ensure equal opportunities for women in education, employment and politics.

2. Radical Feminism :-

- Views patriarchy as the root cause of gender inequality.
- Emphasizes the need to dismantle patriarchal systems and address issues like violence against women, reproductive rights and cultural norms that oppress women.

3. Marxist/Socialist Feminism :-

- Links gender inequality to capitalism, arguing that women's oppression is tied to their economic dependence on men.
- Advocates for economic restructuring to ensure gender equality in the workforce and society.

4. Intersectional Feminism :-

- Developed by Kimberlé Crenshaw, it examines how multiple forms of discrimination (e.g., gender, race, class and ethnicity) intersect to create unique experiences of oppression.

- Recognizes that gender inequality cannot be addressed without addressing other forms of social inequality.

Gender Inequality in Education:-

Feminist theories highlight how gender roles and stereotypes are reinforced in educational institutions, affecting women's access to and experiences in education.

Example: Despite increased female enrollment in higher education globally, gender disparities persist in STEM fields, often attributed to societal stereotypes about women's abilities in these areas.

Gender Inequality in Employment :-

Feminist theories emphasize the persistent gender Pay gap, occupational segregation and the underrepresentation of women in leadership roles.

Example:

Women globally earn about 77 cents for every dollars earned by men, and they are overrepresented in informal and part-time employment.

Gender Inequality in Politics:-

Feminist theories address women's underrepresentation in political decision-making and the structural barriers they face in entering politics.

Example: Globally, women held only 26% of parliamentary seats in 2023, reflecting structural and cultural barriers of political participation.

Conclusion:-

Feminist theories in sociology provide a comprehensive framework to analyze and address gender inequality to education, employment and politics. Together, all those theories offer practical and theoretical tools to challenge gender-based discrimination and promote equality in all spheres of life.

Q.6 :-

Short Notes:-

(a). Social Control and its Types:-

Definition :

Social control refers to the mechanisms, strategies and institutions that societies use to regulate individual and group behaviour to maintain order, cohesion and conformity to social norms. It ensures that members of a society adhere to established values and rules.

Types of Social Control :-

1. Formal Social Control:
   - Enforced by institutions such as governments, legal systems and educational organizations.
   - Relies on laws, regulations and official sanctions (e.g., fines, imprisonment or rewards).
   - Example: Courts penalize crimes like theft to ensure law and order.

2. Informal Social Control:
   - Exercised by families, peer groups and communities through social norms, customs and cultural expectations.
   - Relies on informal sanctions like approval, disapproval, ridicule or praise.
   - Example: A child is scolded by parents for lying.

3. Direct Social Control:
   - Involves overt actions to regulate behaviour, such as supervision or policing.
   - Example: Teachers monitoring student in a classroom.

4. Indirect Social Control:
   - Relies on internalized norms and values where individuals regulate their own behaviour.
   - Example: A person refrains from cheating because of their moral values.

Conclusion:-
Social control is essential for maintaining societal stability and harmony. While formal control relies on institutional mechanisms,

informal control emphasizes social and cultural influences. Both are interdependent in shaping individual and collective behaviour.

(b). Ethnocentrism and Xenocentrism :—

(i). Ethnocentrism :—
Ethnocentrism refers to the belief that one's own culture, values or norms are superior to those of other cultures. It involves judging other cultures based on the standards and customs of one's own culture.

Characteristics :-
- leads to cultural bias and stereotypes.
- Often fosters a sense of pride and unity a group but can also result in discrimination or conflict.

Example :-
A person from a Western society might view traditional clothing or practices from non-Western societies as inferior or outdated.

(ii). Xenocentrism :—
Xenocentrism is the preference for and admiration of foreign cultures over one's own. It involves perceiving other cultures as superior while undervaluing one's native culture.

Characteristics :-

- Can lead to a loss of cultural identity and undervaluation of local traditions.
- Promotes the imitation of foreign customs, often at the expense of indigenous practices.

Example :-

People in some countries might prefer foreign brands or products over locally made ones, assuming they are of better quality.

Conclusion :-

Both ethnocentrism and xenocentrism influence how people perceive cultures, but they operate in opposite ways. While ethnocentrism emphasizes cultural superiority, xenocentrism highlights cultural admiration for others, often at the expense of one's own culture. Both require balance to foster cultural understanding and mutual respect.

there is no need to write conclusion in note

over all content is fine and relevant but answers are too short need improvement over all
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